NUMB. LXXXVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Quid Domini facient, audent cum talia Fures? Virg.

Monday, June 11. 1711.

Mr. SPECTATOR, *May* 30. 1711.

'I Have no ſmall Value for your Endeavours 'to lay before the World what may eſcape 'their Obſervation, and yet highly conduces 'to their Service. You have, I think, ſuc-'ceeded very well on many Subjects; and ſeem to 'have been converſant in very different Scenes of 'Life. But in the Conſiderations of Mankind, as 'SPECTATOR, you ſhould not omit Circumſtances 'which relate to the inferiour Part of the World, 'any more than thoſe which concern the greater. 'There is one thing in particular which I wonder 'you have not touched upon, and that is, the gene-'ral Corruption of Manners in the Servants of *Great* 'Britain. I am a Man that have travelled and ſeen 'many Nations, but have for ſeven Years laſt paſt 'reſided conſtantly in *London* or within twenty 'Miles of it: In this Time I have contracted a 'numerous Acquaintance among the beſt Sort of 'People, and have hardly found one of them hap-'py in their Servants. This is Matter of great A-'ſtoniſhment to Foreigners, and all ſuch as have 'viſited foreign Countries, eſpecially ſince we can-'not but obſerve, That there is no Part of the 'World where Servants have thoſe Privileges and 'Advantages as in *England*: They have no where 'elſe ſuch plentiful Diet, large Wages, or indulgent 'Liberty: There is no Place wherein they labour 'leſs, and yet where they are ſo little reſpectful, 'more waſteful, more negligent, or where they ſo 'frequently change their Maſters. To this I at-'tribute, in a great Meaſure, the frequent Robbe-'ries and Loſſes which we ſuffer on the high Road 'and in our own Houſes. That indeed which gives 'me the preſent Thought of this Kind, is, that a care-'leſs Groom of mine has ſpoiled me the prettieſt 'Pad in the World, with only riding him ten 'Miles; and I aſſure you, if I were to make a Re-'giſter of all the Horſes I have known thus abuſed 'by Negligence of Servants, the Number would 'mount a Regiment. I wiſh you would give us 'your Obſervations, that we may know how to 'treat theſe Rogues, or that we Maſters may enter 'into Meaſures to reform them. Pray give us a 'Speculation in general about Servants, and you 'make me,

Yours,

'Pray do not omit the 'Mention of Grooms in 'particular. Philo-Britannicus.

This honeſt Gentleman, who is ſo deſirous that I ſhould write a Satyr upon Grooms, has a great deal of Reaſon for his Reſentment; and I know no Evil which touches all Mankind ſo much as this of the Misbehaviour of Servants.

The Complaint of this Letter runs wholly upon Men-Servants; and I can attribute the Licentiouſneſs which has at preſent prevailed among them to nothing but what an hundred before me have aſcribed it to, The Cuſtom of giving Board-Wages: This one Inſtance of falſe Oeconomy is ſufficient to debauch the whole Nation of Servants, and makes them as it were but for ſome Part of their Time in that Quality. They are either attending in Places where they meet and run into Clubs, or elſe, if they wait at Taverns, they eat after their Maſters, and reſerve their Wages for other Occaſions. From hence it ariſes, That they are but in a lower Degree what their Maſters themſelves are; and uſually affect an Imitation of their Manners: And you have in Liveries Beaux, Fops, and Coxcombs in as high Perfection, as among People that keep Equipages. It is a common Humour among the Retinue of People of Quality, when they are in their Revels, that is when they are out of their Maſters Sight, to aſſume in an humourous Way the Names and Titles of thoſe whoſe Liveries they wear. By which Means Characters and Diſtinctions become ſo familiar to them, that it is to this, among other Cauſes, one may impute a certain Inſolence among our Servants, that they take no Notice of any Gentleman though they know him ever ſo well, except he is an Acquaintance of their Maſters.

My Obſcurity and Taciturnity leaves me at Liberty, without Scandal, to dine, if I think fit, at a common Ordinary, in the meaneſt as well as the moſt

most sumptuous House of Entertainment. Falling in the other Day at a Victualling-house near the House of Peers, I heard the Maid come down and tell the Landlady at the Bar, That my Lord Bishop swore he would throw her out of the Window if she did not bring up more Mild-beer, and that my Lord Duke would have a double Mug of Purle. My Surprise was encreased in hearing loud and rustick Voices speak and answer to each other upon the publick Affairs by the Names of the most Illustrious of our Nobility; till of a sudden one came running in, and cryed the House was rising. Down came all the Company together, and away: The Ale-house was immediately filled with Clamour, and scoring one Mug to the Marquis of such a Place, Oyl and Vinegar to such an Earl, three Quarts to my new Lord for wetting his Title, and so forth. It is a thing too notorious to mention the Crowds of Servants, and their Insolence, near the Courts of Justice, and the Stairs towards the supreme Assembly; where there is an universal Mockery of all Order, such riotous Clamour and licentious Confusion, that one would think the whole Nation lived in jest, and there were no such thing as Rule and Distinction among us.

The next Place of Resort, wherein the servile World are let loose, is at the Entrance of *Hide-Park*, while the Gentry are at the Ring. Hither People bring their Lacqueys out of State, and here it is that all they say at their Tables and act in their Houses is communicated to the whole Town. There are Men of Wit in all Conditions of Life; and mixing with these People at their Diversions, I have heard Coquets and Prudes as well rallied, and Insolence and Pride exposed, (allowing for their want of Education,) with as much Humour and good Sense, as in the politest Companies. It is a general Observation, That all Dependants run in some Measure into the Manners and Behaviour of those whom they serve: You shall frequently meet with Lovers and Men of Intrigue among the Lacqueys, as well as at *White's* or in the Side-boxes. I remember some Years ago an Instance of this Kind. A Footman to a Captain of the Guard used frequently, when his Master was out of the Way, to carry on Amours and make Assignations in his Master's Cloaths. The Fellow had a very good Person, and there are very many Women that think no further than the Outside of a Gentleman; besides which he was almost as learned a Man as the Collonel himself. I say, thus qualified, the Fellow could scrawl *Billets doux* so well, and furnish a Conversation on the common Topicks, that he had, as they call it, a great deal of good Business on his Hands. It happened one Day, that coming down a Tavern-stairs in his Master's fine Guard-Coat, with a well-dressed Woman masked, he met the Collonel coming up with other Company; but with a ready Assurance he quitted his Lady, came up to him, and said, *Sir, I know you have too much Respect for your self to cane me in this honourable Habit: But you see there is a Lady in the Case, and I hope on that Score also you will put off your Anger till I have told you all another Time.* After a little Pause the Collonel cleared up his Countenance, and with an Air of Familiarity whispered his Man apart, *Sirrah, bring the Lady with you to ask Pardon for you*; then aloud, *Look to it* Will. *I'll never forgive you this.* The Fellow went back to his Mistress, and telling her with a loud Voice and an Oath, That was the honestest Fellow in the World, conveyed her to an Hackney-Coach.

But the many Irregularities committed by Servants in the Places above-mentioned, as well as in the Theatres, of which Masters are generally the Occasions, are too various not to need being resumed on another Occasion.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality.

For the Benefit of Mr. Castleman.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow, being Tuesday the 12th of June, will be presented a Comedy call'd, Rule a Wife and have a Wife. Written by Beaumont and Fletcher. The Part of Leon by Mr. Powell, Copper Captain by Mr. Wilks, Estifania by Mrs. Oldfield, Duke by Mr. Bowman, Don Juan by Mr. Thurmond, Cecafogo by Mr. Bullock, Margaretta by Mrs. Knight, Altea by Mrs. Bicknell, Old Woman by Mrs. Norris. To which will be added a Farce call'd, The Walking Statue, or the Devil in the Wine-Cellar. Being the last Time of acting this Season.

This Play is sold by Jacob Tonson, at Shakespear's Head over against Catharine-street in the Strand.

To be sold by Auction, (Eighty six right Dutch Tables and Tea-Tables finely painted, (a single Table in each Lot) brought over from Amsterdam in Holland, on Thursday the 14th of June, 1711, at 10 a Clock in the Forenoon precisely, at the Sign next Door to the Horn Tavern in Fleet-street, London; where the aforesaid Tables are to be seen and Catalogues delivered, from this Day the 11th Instant till the time of Sale.

To be sold, at a lower Rate than ordinary, at the Queen's Head joining to the Church Gate in Bedford-street, Covent-Garden, all Sorts of Druggets, Hair and Worsted Camlets, Sagathies, Duroys, Shagreens, Shalloons, Durants, Padua Serges, Shags, Serges, Norsts, Calamancoes, and all other Goods fit for Mens Apparel. The Persons who now keep the Shop designing to leave off the Trade, and the House and Shop to be lett at Michaelmas next.

At the Indian Man in Russel-Street, Covent-Garden, is a Parcel of rich Jewels, viz. a Brilliant Diamond Spring and Cross, Ear-Rings, Rings, Buckles, Pendants, and also fine Lace, rich Silks, Muslins, and other valuable Goods, to be dispos'd of at reasonable Rates, the whole amounting to 675 l. which, for the Encouragement of Buyers, will be divided into 360 Shares, the biggest wherein is 100 l. Value, and the least 10 s. Any one of these may be purchased for the little Sum of Half a Crown, as may be known more at large at the Place of Sale, where Attendance will be given till all the Goods be sold. It being near full, 'tis propos'd to divide the Shares on the 12th of July next.

This is to give Notice to all Persons concerned in the Moral Contribution for the Benefit of Servants, at the Office in Ironmonger-lane, That the same is continued as formerly, according to the Liberty given by a Clause in the late Lottery-Act, and the Contributions are to be paid at the Times appointed. But for the Satisfaction of those who are willing to decline further Proceeding therein, all the Money they have paid for Contribution, and also what they have paid for Entrance, shall be immediately returned them, provided the Servants be still in their Places, and Proof thereof made before the 1st of August next, deducting only 6 d. an Entry towards the Office-Charges.

This Day is publish'd,

An Essay on the Nature, Extent, and Authority of Private Judgment in matters of Religion: Shewing how far the same is consistant with the making of Creeds, and the Authority of Councils Synods and other Ecclesiastical Assemblies. Highly necessary for the determining most of the Controversies now on Foot concerning the present State of the Church. Written by the Author of the Dialogues between Timothy and Philatheus. Printed for Bernard Lintott at the Cross-Key between the 2 Temple-Gates, and sold by John Friend in Westminster-Hall. Price 2 s. 6 d.

A Treatise concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge. Part I. Wherein the chief Causes of Error and Difficulty in the Sciences, with the Grounds of Scepticism, Atheism, and Irreligion are inquired into: By George Berkeley, M. A. Fellow of Trinity-College, Dublin. Dublin, printed for Jeremy Pepyat, and sold by J. Churchill, at the Black-Swan in Pater-noster-row, London.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*, where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.